

me in extending our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
CURTIS HAVEN KINCAID

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Curtis Haven Kincaid, a Victoria resident and World War II Army veteran.

Curtis Haven Kincaid, born on November 6, 1921, in Hudson, Michigan, passed away on January 29, 2019, at the age of 97.

In December 1939, Mr. Kincaid enlisted in the U.S. Army. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Kincaid was assigned to the 38th Division 150th Infantry Force, also known as the "Cyclone Division." His unit was the first U.S. Army combat forces deployed overseas after December 7.

Mr. Kincaid was deployed to Europe in June 1944 and fought courageously in the Combat Infantry through France, Belgium, and into Germany, where he remained until Nazi Germany's defeat. He was honorably discharged in December 1945 with the rank of Sergeant.

After his Army service, Mr. Kincaid left for Texas and served as the Victoria representative for the Snap-On Tool Corporation from 1954 to 1998. He received recognition for setting national sales records during his 44 years of hard work with Snap-On.

I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to the Kincaid family and express appreciation for his service to our community and sacrifices for our country.

ROSIE THE RIVETER—MARINA
METEVALIS

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a constituent who truly has left a lasting legacy on our state and our country.

Marina Metevalis was just 16 years old when Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941. This traumatic event galvanized many Americans to join the army or do whatever they could to serve their country in our time of need. Marina was inspired to apply for a job at the Wichita aircraft plant, putting together the planes that would defend our country.

Just a high schooler, Marina took up the mantle of Rosie the Riveter, stepping up to do what was at the time considered "men's work" while our troops were fighting the Axis Powers abroad.

Marina juggled school work with her job at the aircraft plant, coming home after the night shift to work on homework before getting up in the morning to start all over again.

In the years since, Marina has gone on to be an educator, a mother, and an inspiration to many, but recalls her time as a Rosie the Riveter as one of her proudest moments. Marina turns 95 years old today and remains just as full of life and service-minded as she has been her entire life.

Congress is pending legislation to award Marina and the many other inspirational women who joined the workforce during World War II, taking on the mantle of "Rosie the Riveter", with a Congressional Gold Medal. I look forward to voting for her and our many Rosie the Riveters to be awarded with this honor.

She is an example of true patriotism, selflessness, and American spirit. I thank her for her service to our country and the legacy she has left on our community.

HONORING MRS. VERNICE BLACK-
AVANT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Vernice Black-Avant.

Vernice Black-Avant was born November 18, 1949 in Como, Mississippi to the late Albert and Della Mae Black. She was the fifth born of thirteen children. She was diagnosed at the age of ten with a childhood spinal illness. She and her parents and friends spent many months at LeBonheur Children's Hospital for surgeries, treatments and follow up visits. She was blessed with praying parents and grandparents: Effie Dodson Washington and Armetha Walton Black, who both saw to it that she had a Christian upbringing. She grew up in a rural community just west of Como, Mississippi. Vernice attended Caruthers and Melrose Elementary and Como Junior High School. In 1968, she and her family moved to Longtown, MS. This move came after her family was told to move over night or be burned in that house because her parents had encouraged her to attend a predominantly all-white high school during her senior year in high school.

After moving to Longtown, she met the man of her dreams, Robert Allen Avant, Sr. in 1968 and married six months later after graduating from North Panola High School. Following her wedding on July thirteenth they relocated to Chicago, Illinois for eighteen months. There she enjoyed cooking with her mother-in-law, Dorothy Jean Bishop-Avant and sitting in the window on Halsted Street watching the many Cadillac Eldorados go by as she waited for her husband to come home from work. After a couple years her aunt became sick, (her mother-in-law's sister) and they moved back to Longtown. After her Aunt passed, they moved to live with her mother-in-law in Memphis for a few months. Then in 1972, she began her career as an elementary school secretary at Crenshaw Elementary School where she worked for thirty-one years. While there, she served as lunchroom bookkeeper, doctor, counselor, negotiator, nurse, mediator, accountant, police/protector and friend.

In 1973, Vernice and Robert were blessed with their first son, Robert Allen Avant, Jr. Issac Lanier was born five years later. In 1981, they were blessed with their third son, Albert Hosia Jerriod Avant. A year later, they moved into their first newly built home. Vernice and Robert enrolled and attended evening/night classes at Coahoma Community College at the Crenshaw Interested Community Builders Campus in Crenshaw, Mississippi

and both graduated in 1986 with Honors, merit Scholarships, and with an Associate Arts Degree. From 1987 to August 4, 2008, Robert Allen Avant, Sr. served as Panola County's District Two Supervisor with Vernice by his side in full support. After retiring for a short while, she went to work for a private corporation as secretary and bookkeeper for ten years. In August of 2008, following Robert's untimely death due to a very rare lung cancer, Vernice was sworn in as Supervisor of Panola County's 2nd District.

Currently, Vernice is serving her district and Panola County as vice-President of North Delta Planning and Development District, secretary for the Crenshaw P-16 Council for Crenshaw Elementary School and is an active member of McIvor Creek Missionary Baptist Church where she serves as President of the Mother Board. She is a Mississippi Association of Supervisors Education Committee member, former Mississippi Association of Supervisors Insurance Trust Board member, an active member of the NAACP and is an active member of Keep America Beautiful/Panola County. In her quest to be a servant to the people of Panola County, she made time to care for her brothers-in-law, Micheal Avant and Willie Avant, both of which lost battles to oral and throat cancers in 2009 and 2018 respectively. Vernice lost her eldest son, Robert Jr., to a long battle with diabetes and later colon and lung cancer in January, 2017. Vernice continues to serve with God as her focus point. She was recently nominated and awarded the "Women of Excellence Award" by the National Foundation for Women Legislators. All of Vernice and Robert's children have earned bachelor degrees. Lanier earned his Juris Doctor degree from Howard University in 2007 and Jerriod is working on his PhD in English at The University of Rhode Island. Thanks for the opportunity to serve such great people.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Vernice Black-Avant for her dedication in serving her community.

HONORING DEPUTY RILEY
MICHELE JARECKI

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Riley Michele Jarecki, whom I have named a Public Safety Hero of the Year in Napa County, California.

Ms. Jarecki was born in Napa, California and has a family history of public service. She is a third generation Napa County law enforcement officer, following the footsteps of her father, a Sergeant with the Napa County Sheriff's Office, and her grandfather, who was a Police Captain with the City of Napa Police Department.

On February 17, 2019, Ms. Jarecki displayed her dedication to public safety. Around 11:00 pm, Ms. Jarecki was performing a vehicle check on a rural road in Napa County. After speaking with the driver from the passenger side window, Ms. Jarecki moved to the driver side window and asked the driver to roll down the window. After rolling down the window, the driver presented a firearm and fired